

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine, comprising:
 - (A) an internal combustion engine; and
 - (B) an exhaust gas purifying catalyst provided in an exhaust passageway of said internal combustion engine,
said exhaust gas purifying catalyst including:
 - (a) a box body formed with an exhaust gas inlet and an exhaust gas outlet;
 - (b) a catalyst support incorporated into said box body;
 - (c) a catalyst substance supported on said catalyst support, said catalyst substance forming a region through which exhaust gas passes from a front face at said exhaust gas inlet to a rear face at said exhaust gas outletgasses pass, wherein:
the catalyst substance includes a notched portion that is recessed from an exhaust inflow surface of the catalyst substance; and
 - (d) a high-density portion disposed within the catalyst substance and downstream in an exhaust gas flow direction from the notched portion~~a low resistance region within the catalyst substance extending from part of said front face through the catalyst substance to part of said rear face,~~
~~wherein said low resistance region provides a lower gas flow resistance than in said catalyst substance, and said low resistance region is disposed within said catalyst substance to produce a higher flow velocity of the exhaust gas than through said catalyst substance;~~

~~_____ said low resistance region includes a notched portion that is recessed from said front face of said catalyst substance, and~~

~~_____ said notched portion extends from said front face to a position between said front and rear faces.~~

2. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

(A) an internal combustion engine; and

(B) an exhaust gas purifying catalyst provided in an exhaust passageway of said internal combustion engine,

said exhaust gas purifying catalyst including:

(a) a box body formed with an exhaust gas inlet and an exhaust gas outlet;

(b) a catalyst support incorporated into said box body;

(c) a catalyst substance supported on said catalyst support, said catalyst substance forming a region through which exhaust gasses pass, wherein:

_____ the catalyst substance includes a notched portion that is recessed from an exhaust inflow surface of the catalyst substance~~gas passes from a front face at said exhaust gas inlet to a rear face at said exhaust gas outlet; and~~

(d) a high-density portion disposed within the catalyst substance and downstream in an exhaust gas flow direction from the notched portion, wherein thea low resistance region within the catalyst substance extending from part of said front face through the catalyst substance to part of said rear face,

~~_____ wherein said low resistance region provides a lower gas flow resistance than in said catalyst substance and said low resistance region is disposed within said catalyst substance to produce a higher flow velocity of the exhaust gas than through said catalyst substance,~~

~~_____ said low resistance region includes a notched portion that is recessed from said front face of said catalyst substance, and~~

~~_____ said notched portion extends from said front face to a position between said front and rear faces such that said notched portion and said low resistance region~~high density portion ~~form a flat interface.~~

3-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of notched portions are formed.

8. (Previously Presented) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein said notched portion takes an annular shape.

9. (Previously Presented) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein said notched portion includes an exhaust gas guide passageway inclined.

10. (Original) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 9, wherein said notched portion takes a conical shape.